

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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USIA-06 ACDA-07 /063 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 272
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 1706

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, DR, HA, US
SUBJ: MORE DOMINICAN-HAITIAN CONTACTS

REF: (A) SANTO DOMINGO 949, (B) PORT AU PRINCE 770

1. PRESIDENTS BALAGUER AND DUVALIER HAVE BEEN TAKING STEPS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND HAITI. THE VISIT OF GENERALS NIVAR, CHECO AND JORGE REPORTED REF (A), WAS LED BY SALOMON SANZ, A DOMINICAN BUSINESSMAN WHO ALSO HOLDS THE TITLE OF AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE MEETING WITH DUVALIER WERE PRINCIPALLY A POTENTIAL CUBAN MILITARY THREAT, THE DROUGHT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. SANZ TOLD THE ACTING DCM THAT DR DELEGATION CAME AWAY WITH A HIGH OPINION OF DUVALIER, HIS GENUINE CONCERN FOR HIS PEOPLE'S WELFARE AND HIS DESIRE FOR HARMONIOUS, COOPERATIVE RELATIONS WITH HIS EASTERN NEIGHBOR. THEY WERE ALSO IMPRESSED WITH THE QUALITY OF DUVALIER'S ADVISORS.

2. A HAITIAN MISSION INCLUDING AUGUSTE DOUYON AND GERARD PROPHETE, RESPECTIVELY PRIVATE AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF DUVALIER, ACCOMPANIED BY HONARY CONSUL ALEX NEUBERGER OF MIAMI, WAS FLOWN TO SANTO DOMINGO ON MARCH 27 BY HAITIAN AIR FORCE CHIEF COL GEORGES DANACHE. THEY WERE RECEIVED BY BALAGUER MARCH 28.

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3. ALL DISCUSSIONS HAVE LED TO THE CONVICTION THAT BETTER COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE ESSENTIAL. SANZ IS PLANNING TO LEAD A GROUP OF DOMINICAN BUSINESSMEN TO PORT AU PRINCE WITHIN A FEW WEEKS. CULTURAL EXCHANGES ARE TO BE INCREASED. THE GODR HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN REFORESTATION IN HAITI. THE DOMINICANS IN SANTO DOMINGO ARE PLANNING TO ESTABLISH REGULAR SOCIAL AND BUSINESS CONTACTS WITH HAITIAN

AMBASSADOR GUILLAUME, WHOM THEY CONSIDER AN ABLE, MORE RESPONSIVE AND MORE APPROACHABLE REPRESENTATIVE THAN HIS PREDECESSOR.

4. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT COMMUNISM IS A REAL THREAT AND THAT CUBA IS A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF POLITICAL TROUBLE. BOTH COUNTRIES AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE FOOLISH TO TRY TO BUILD MILITARY FORCES CAPABLE OF DEFENDING AGAINST CUBAN MILITARY ATTACK, THAT ESCALATION OF ARMS PURCHASES SHOULD BE AVOIDED. THERE WAS COMPLETE AGREEMENT THAT ONLY THE US OFFERS ADEQUATE MILITARY DEFENSE AGAINST CUBAN MILITARY AGGRESSION IN THE CARIBBEAN, AND BOTH SIDES, ACCORDING TO SANZ, ARE COMFORTABLE IN THEIR ASSURANCE THAT THE US WOULD UNHESITATINGLY PREVENT SUCH AGGRESSION.

5. THE EXCHANGES HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN USEFUL, BUT THEY HAVE PRODUCED NO STRUCTURAL OR INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES TO MAKE THE GAINS PERMANENT. SANZ SAID THAT THE SEQUELS WILL CONSIST SIMPLY OF MORE FREQUENT CONTACTS AND EASIER COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HAITIANS AND DOMINICANS.
HURWITCH

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